

PREFACE

ABOUT ten years ago, when Sir R. Venkataratnam Naidu was its Vice-Chancellor, the Madras University instituted a scheme of lectures in the main vernaculars of South India on subjects relating to Oriental cul- ture. The honour of delivering the first series in Kannada came to me and I chose as my subject the popular culture of the Kannada country. The sub- stance of the four lectures which I then delivered was published in Kannada sometime thereafter.

Sir R. Venkataratnam Naidu desired that the matter should be published in English also but I was not able to do this then. A draft of the present book was, however, ready in 1931. Want of leisure has delayed its revision and publication till now.

The topics dealt with in the book do not cover the whole ground of popular culture. Other possible sections have been omitted for fear of a repetition of ideas of which there is some in the book even as it is. The influence of other religions and of modern ideas on the culture of the people has not been discussed at any length. The bases of the popular culture of the country are in the main the same as before and they are what I have tried to set out in this small book.

Some portions of the book have appeared elsewhere in a somewhat different form

previously: the
section regarding the Dharwar songs as an
appendix-
to the report of the 1931 Census of Mysore,
the part
regarding Basavanna in the *Journal of the
Mythic
Society*, Bangalore, and as a pamphlet
issued by the